

378-395

Theodosius I the Great
was Emper of Rome (Constantinople)

Aug 9, 378

Battle of Adrianople

Roman Army & Cavalry under
Emperor Valens (c 328-378) was defeated
by Visigoth Cavalry Aug 9, 378

1912 Dates' J-BK

Aug 9, 378
(328-378)

VALENS

F (364-378)

Roman emperor of the East (364-378)
the brother VALENTINIAN I, with whom
he shared the empire

Valens reduced taxes by 25%.
He defeated the Ostrogoths in a war lasting
from 367 to 369. defeated the Persians (372)
and permitted the Goths, who were
hard pressed by the advancing hordes
of the HUNS, to settle in THRACE.

This brought about war with the
Goths themselves in which the
Army of Valens was completely routed
and he was slain at Adrianople
Aug 9, 378

May 378

Valens arrived with the main body of
his forces at end of May 378

Visigoths won the Battle of ADRIANOPLE.
A victory over the Roman empire opened up
Thrace to the "Barbarians".

Rome faced a mounting crisis in the last quarter
of the 4th Century. A second phase of "wandering
of the nations" began. Goths, who lived beyond
the Danube i.e. north already were Christians
though they were Arians. In 370 the Huns from
Asia overran their lands & about 40,000 Visigoths
sought refuge within the empire. In 376

Emperor Valens allowed them to settle south of the Danube.

In 378 the Visigoths rose against their masters and their cavalry won a crushing victory at Adrianople, during which the emperor was killed. The Teutonic advance now became irresistible.

2nd Battle of ADRIANOPLE (Turkey)

the GOTHs defeated and slew
Valens, emperor of the
Roman Empire

Early June 378

Sebastianos had begun operations in
the area around Nike (14 mi north of Adrianople)

mid July 378

Valens reached the city of Adrianople.
The good news were: the success of Sebastianus
who with 2000 men had destroyed a Gothic
column & Gratian was approaching

Aug 7, 378

A predominantly Alanic detachment of Neutungan cavalry had attacked 12 Roman lightly armed troops at CASTRA MARTIS and inflicted some losses.

The war council, presided over by Valens decided to seek battle. Sebastianus, the chief commander prevailed against cautious councillors. Valens decided to attack.

Aug. 9, 378

In morning, imperial army left city of Arconople. The baggage train was left under guard. The Goths awaited the Romans in and around their circle of wagons, the Romans had to march 11 mi in scorching heat. The Roman advance detachment discovered that the Goths were far more numerous than had been assumed.

While negotiations were being prepared, two Roman units had begun hostilities WITHOUT orders and they dragged along the rest of the army in a more

disorganized fashion.

The battle had hardly begun when a lightning quick attack of the Gothic Cavalry (Saxons & Sarmatians) the mounted & heavy horsemen fell upon the right flank of the Romans & rolled it up from the side & the rear, then one detachment of Gothic Cavalry went round to the other flank & repeated, meanwhile Frutiger's foot soldiers left the wagons & were attacking from the front, the Roman Cavalry fled, and the tactical infantry reserves did the same, surrounded on all sides the Roman Army was cut down and with it, the emperor Valens & most of the generals no-less than 35 high ranking officers; The night was muggy - some Romans escaped in the darkness

Aug. 10 & Aug. 12, 378

Over Frutigen's compulsion, the Goths
attacked Adrianople. They were repulsed
with bloody losses.

Philippopolis - PLOVDIV and PERINTHUS
also held out against the Goths
at Adrianople a subterfuge downpour
drenched them & the Goths thought the heavens
were collapsing:
They did not learn to use the equipment

to capture fortified towns where the food
was stored, so again the Goths went
hungry.

Fritigern was neither able to keep together
his warriors nor follow a specific plan.

Julius, the commander of the Eastern
Army, ordered the Gothic garrisons within
his sphere of command in Asia Minor
to be dispersed & cut down. He had
obtained authorization from the senate at
Constantinople, but this action cost him, his
job.